

the sterno-cleido-mastoid to the centre of the trachea, traversing all the textures down to the tumour. But neither this nor the elevation of the tumour with the tenaculum diminished the difficulty of breathing. He then dissected up and cut off that portion which lay in front of the trachea. But the breathing continued the same. With two ligatures and applications of snow the hemorrhage from the incision upon the gland was soon arrested. It now became apparent that the trachea was permanently narrowed by the long and continued pressure, and the operation of tracheotomy was made below the tumour as a final and only resort. Through this opening he continued to breathe quietly and freely until his death, which occurred three days after.

The *autopsy* disclosed the following facts. The right thyroid lobe enlarged to about five inches in its transverse diameter and degenerated; containing several imperfectly formed cysts filled with grumous matter. One of these cysts, with a portion of the hypertrophied structure, was situated directly behind the trachea, occupying all the space between the cricoid cartilage and the 6th or 7th cartilaginous ring, and encroaching upon the tube from this direction so as to effect an almost complete closure; leaving only an opening of about two lines in diameter. The left lobe was also considerably hypertrophied, and degenerated in the same manner with the right.—*Trans. Med. Soc. State of N. York*, 1849.

*Superfecundation and Mixed Births.*—Dr. THOMAS B. TAYLOR, of Princeton, Miss., relates (*N. O. Journ.*, Nov. 1848) the following as a case of superfecundation. Clarissa, a negress, the property of Mr. A. Knox, aged about 35 years, in May last was delivered of twins; one a mulatto, and the other a negro child. She had been married to a negro man on the plantation, of delicate constitution, for many years, and had had several children by him. Her menstrual discharge had occurred for several months previous to her pregnancy, at about the full of the moon. She felt herself pregnant by her customary signs, about the middle of the month; and, to confirm her suspicions, at the next period it did not appear. About three weeks from the time she first felt she had conceived, and one week after her menses had failed to appear, she had sexual intercourse *once* with a white man. She slept with her husband every night—had connection with him the night before she had intercourse with the white man, but not on the same night. At their birth the mulatto child bore marks of being at least three weeks younger than the negro; thus sustaining the woman in her suppositions, as to the time between her two conceptions. This woman is a faithful servant, and I have every reason to believe she told the truth in relating the circumstances of her case to me.

*Cases in which a large quantity of Chloroform was used.*—Professor JACKSON related a case in which a remarkable quantity of chloroform was used. A lady labouring under a stricture of the upper portion of the rectum which prevented the flatus from passing, became, in consequence, the subject of an enormous distension of the abdomen, attended with so great a degree of sensitiveness that the use of palpation and percussion were entirely precluded, and her case was at first involved in no little obscurity.

In the latter part of the month of December, 1845, she was attacked by a violent convulsive paroxysm, preceded by a very peculiar spasmodic affection, consisting in a cracking of the head of the humerus in the glenoid cavity, and of the femur in the acetabulum; these spasmodic symptoms continued for about fifteen minutes, when general convulsions set in, accompanied with intense pain. On the first of January, 1846, an attack of spasms occurred and continued for several hours; the urine was retained from a spasmodic affection of the neck of the bladder and urethra, the orifice of which latter was so much retracted that it was difficult to introduce a catheter to relieve the distension of the bladder. A few drops of chloroform were given to the patient to inhale, and prompt relief was experienced. The use of the chloroform was continued daily for two or three weeks, the quantity being gradually increased as the effects diminished. Dr. J. was sent for one morning and found the mother of the lady in great alarm in consequence of the quantity of the chloroform which her daughter had taken.

She had inhaled two ounces in the course of the evening, then two ounces more, and an additional ounce in the course of the night; being five ounces inhaled from 5 o'clock P. M. until 10 o'clock of the ensuing morning. Dr. J. found her with a feeble pulse, diminished temperature of the body, and considerable excitement of mind. She insisted upon having more of the ether to inhale. She remained cold and nearly pulseless for forty-eight hours; when all effects of the inhalation disappeared, and, what is remarkable, since that time she has had no return of her spasms. Upon one occasion having a tooth taken out, the pain of the operation caused a tendency to their return, but this went off without the spasms occurring.—*Trans. Phila. College of Phys.*, Vol. ii. No. vi.

*Local Anæsthesia in Neuralgia.*—Dr. HAYS stated, that he had employed the chloroform to produce local anæsthesia with apparently the most happy effects, in a case of neuralgia, occurring in a gentleman fifty years of age, who had been for a long time a sufferer from neuralgia of the foot, in which all the remedies that had been previously employed failed to produce relief. Dr. H. was called to this patient about eight days since, and found him in intense pain, which had deprived him of sleep the whole of the preceding night. Dr. H. directed the affected parts to be enveloped with a pledget of lint or a few folds of muslin wet with chloroform, and the whole to be covered with a portion of oiled silk to prevent evaporation; on the next morning he found him entirely free from pain, which has not since returned. Whether the relief experienced in this case is to be ascribed to the local anæsthesia produced by the chloroform, or is to be considered as a mere coincidence, Dr. H. does not pretend to decide.—*Ibid.*

Since this communication was made to the College, the further history of this case has shown that an arrest of the paroxysm is always accomplished by the application of the chloroform; and to the use of the article, several other similar cases have been attended with like results.

*Chloroform in Nephritic Colic.*—Dr. STILLE stated, that last spring, Dr. Bowditch, of Boston, related to him a case of nephritic colic, occurring in an individual who had previously suffered from several attacks, in which the chloroform had been administered with the effect of inducing entire relief of the pain, without abolishing consciousness. The influence of the chloroform was kept up for several hours, when, at length, the stone passed through the ureter. Within the last three weeks a lady, about twenty years of age, after retiring to bed some hours, was attacked with violent pain in the region of the right kidney. About an hour afterwards (1 o'clock, A. M.) Dr. Stillé was sent for. The mother had applied warm fomentations to the loins, and immersed the feet in a mustard bath. There was still intense pain, with tenderness over the region of the right kidney. The patient was lying bent double, her hands and feet were cold, her pulse feeble, and about sixty in the minute. The pain extended in the direction of the ureter; there was pain and a twitching motion of the right thigh, with frequent inclinations to urinate. From a review of the symptoms, Dr. S. considered the case to be one of nephritic colic. The use of ether was suggested. A teaspoonful was poured upon a handkerchief and inhaled for five minutes, when the patient fell asleep. In about fifteen minutes she was aroused by a return of the pain. The ether was again inhaled, and its impression was kept up for about an hour, without carrying it so far as to abolish consciousness; the pain ceased, the extremities became warm, and the pulse rose to seventy-five. The next morning there was no pain complained of, but considerable soreness was experienced when pressure was made over the right kidney. The pain did not return until two nights afterwards; when a larger dose of the ether was used, by the patient, without Dr. Stillé's presence or direction, but from some cause, it did not produce the same alleviation of the pain as before. At 4 o'clock in the morning Dr. S. saw her. The pain had by this time somewhat abated, and upon the administration of an opiate enema complete relief was procured. The pain has not since returned. No calculus was passed, so far, at least, as could be ascertained.—*Ibid.*